

# Ex-NFL, Tech star enjoys life in real estate

By Parrish Walton

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Having played football at a high level for over a decade, one would think that not playing the game would be painful.

**Taz Anderson** does not see it that way.

"I don't miss it at all," the 70-year-old Buckhead resident said.

Anderson, a Savannah native, got into real estate during his football career, and quickly realized that was what he wanted to do.

He created Taz Anderson Realty in 1967, the same year he retired from football after his second year with the Atlanta Falcons.

"Like most pro players, I had had an injury or two and I realized there was something else to do with my life," he said. "I started doing real estate in St. Louis, and I had some friends who were in business.

"When I hurt my knee originally I thought I might be able to play a little longer, but I knew long-term that I needed to get into a profession."

Anderson starred at Georgia Tech from 1957-60 as a fullback, earning All-American honors.

He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh round in the 1960 NFL draft, and would go on to play four years

for St. Louis and two more years for the Atlanta Falcons before retiring.

Anderson finished his six-year career with 87 catches, 1,335 yards and nine touchdowns while playing tight end. In 2005 he was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

Some might think that playing professional football and transitioning to real estate would be tough as the two are very different.

Not so, says Anderson.

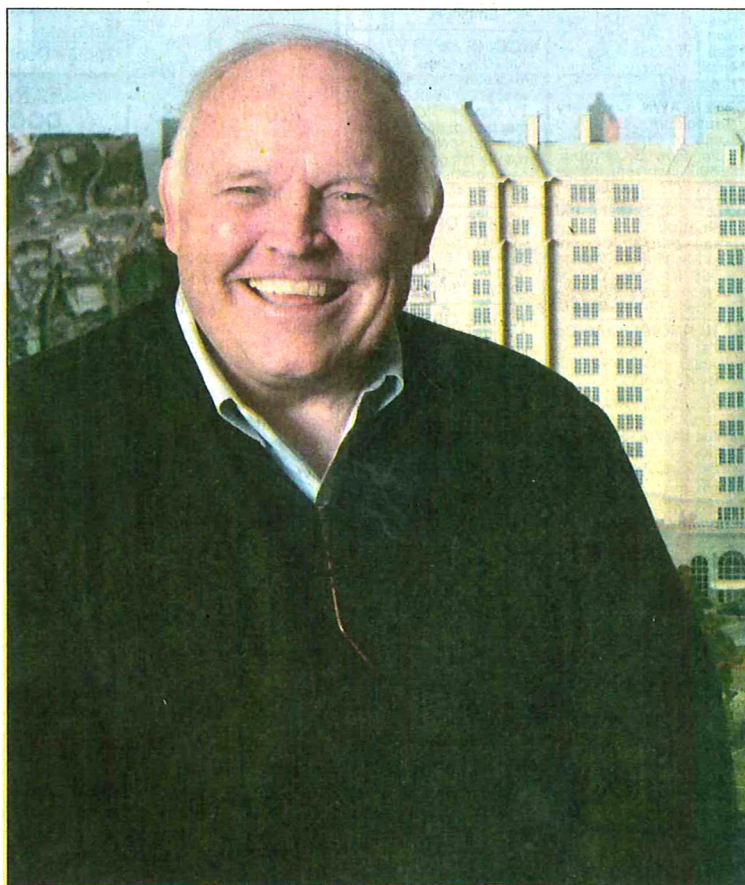
"It's kind of the same because in football you run down the field with your helmet on and you hit somebody head on, and that's the same thing we're doing with real estate," he said. "They're both about as tough."

After beginning real estate in the Midwest, Anderson said it was an easy transition to come to Atlanta and do likewise.

"It seems to me that Atlanta has always been a place where you could achieve whatever you wanted to achieve," he said. "That's why people come here from all over the Southeast."

Anderson has not totally left football, however. He is still a very big part of Georgia Tech, helping with nearly every athletic fundraising effort.

"Well that's been a relationship of love, that was never hard," he said. "We've finally



Special photo

Taz Anderson has found happiness off the gridiron and in real estate.

got the right people in place, we are solid financially and we've got good coaches and good leadership."

All in all things could not get much better for Anderson. Georgia Tech is on the rise and his company is thriving.